UNIVERSAL WISDOM IN THIRUKKURAL

Dr. M. Rajaram IAS

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TAMIL STUDIES
Tharamani, Chennai - 600 113

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FOREWORD

ஒழுக்கத்தின் எய்துவர் மேன்மை இழுக்கத்தின்
எய்துவர் எய்தாப் பழி. (குறள் 137)

Good conduct ever brings great honour
Bad conduct ends in great dishonour. **(Kural 137)**

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma is a versatile linguist and a great Tamil Patron. Her contributions for the growth of Tamil and Tamil Culture are lauded even by the foreigners.

The eminent World Poet, Dr.Yu Hsi gave, ***"The Crane Summit of International Medallicn"*** in appreciation of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rich contributions for the growth of Tamil and Tamil Culture. Australian Parliament also recorded her immense services for the cause of language and culture.

Following the footsteps of **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma**, Dr.M.Rajaram, I.A.S., Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department has selected the best sayings from the sacred writings of major religions closely resembling Thirukkural to spread the glory in Thirukkural across the globe.

I commend the scholarly efforts of Dr.M.Rajaram in bringing out this book, **"Universal Wisdom In Thirukkural."** This endeavour of Dr.M.Rajaram IAS will fetch more glory to Tamil as well as the International Institute of Tamil Studies.

(K.C.Veeramani)

Dr. G. Vijayaraghavan
Director
International Institute of Tamil Studies

Foreword

The Greatness of Thirukkural "one of the highest and expression of human Rights and Values". The Kural has seen the light of many interpreters and Translators both India and Western. Of course for the greater part the moral, ethical, psychological, political and educational elements had been stressed by Commentators and Translators too have an endeavored to turn what Valluvar had in mind into moral precepts.

In the Kural was envisaged perfectitude for the social order. In it, there is no death for the soul of man but death only for the empirical, greedy and selfish.

No significant tribute is needed for the supremacy if its subject - matter, than the fact that it has been translated into a number of languages of the world. Perhaps. It can be claimed that there is no other work of non-religious nature, which stand in comparison with Thirukkural.

The title of this book 'Universal Wisdom in Thirukkural" is Text book on moral, socio-cultural life. Our author as well as Translator Dr.M.Rajaram IAS has taken a more comparatively adopting the Religious concept views.

Thiruvalluvar's 28 concepts like Anger, Brotherhood etc are compare with eleven religious principles and philosophical thoughts.

There are many religious in the world. Here, Author to adopt only eleven livIng religious concepts compare with Kural like Buddhism, Jainism etc. Author made a selection of sayings from the sacred writing of major religious which closely related resemble Thirukkural couplets.

This compilation work in an attempt to explore the best living religious literature. I am sure, This work will be reach all religious people in across the country and make unity of the people. To guide multi-cultural, multi lingual and Inter displinary people for each and every life style. His work is dedicated to all Tamils. Author work, hard in Thirukkural Translation, Quiz, Comparative Study in other language ethical literature. So we are blessing Author to take this type of Academic work.

Director

PREFACE

Thirukkural is a master classic in Tamil literature written about 2000 years before. Thirukkural is called Universal Scripture as it transcends particular religions or regions. Thirukkural consists of 1330 couplets dealing with various aspects of life like God, charity, love, happiness, anger, hatred, friendship, forgiveness, peace, justice, etc.

There are eleven great living religions today. I have made a selection of sayings from the sacred writings of some major religions which closely resemble Thirukkural couplets. They reveal how religions and Thirukkural originating in different cultures and in ages far apart teach similar fundamental doctrines and similar values of ethics.

This compilation is an attempt to glean the best in living religious literatures to the Thirukkural. I am sure it will provide comfort, guidance and inspiration to the readers.

If this attempt can provide guidance in the form of ethical values, I will feel amply rewarded. This book will provide light from many lamps and will greatly enrich human values.

Dr.M.Rajaram IAS

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Universal Wisdom

Anger

To guard yourself, keep wrath at bay
Unchecked, ire will yourself slay

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 305)

Buddhism

One should not give way to anger, but should control it. He who controls anger has power far greater than those who give way to it.

Christianity

God does not sanction anger. One should be slow to anger and always be ready to forgive. If one hates his "brother" he is like a murderer. The mark of a Christian is love, not hatred.

Confucianism

One should so conduct himself as to avoid hatred or anger from others.

Hinduism

Anger breeds confusion. He who would be clear and unconfused must avoid becoming angry.

Jainism

Anger is not for the wise or the religious. Only the ignorant and the sinful will give way to anger.

Judaism

Love, and not anger, is commended. Anger cause strife and destruction. One should respond to anger in others with love and kindness. Only fools give way to anger.

Sikhism

Avarice is a dog; falsehood a sweeper; cheating is the eating of a dead body; Slander is the dirt that my tongue tasteth, and anger is the fire that burns me as at cremation. I indulge in nothing but self-esteem; See, these are my doings, O Lord.

Taoism

No one should be angry with holy men since they are not angry at anyone. Return anger with goodness. do good to those who hate you.

Zoroastrianism

Never give way to the deadly emotions of Anger, Envy, Fear, and Grief. Always be Optimistic.

Brotherhood

Friendship lies not in smiling faces
From smiling hearts it flows.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 786)

Buddhism

A friend is a great treasure and should be cherished as a brother. One should make good men his closest friends, his brothers.

Christianity

All men are brothers. If one has anything against one's brother, he should make peace with him before attending to other religious duties. To hate one's brother is evil. Brotherly love should rule the world.

Confucianism

Friendship and brotherhood are cardinal virtues. One should gather about many friends and should love them as brothers. The wise man will choose friends worthy of brotherly love.

Hinduism

The good man makes no distinction between friend and foe, brother and stranger, but regards them all with impartiality.

Jainism

Be fair and impartial to all. Treat all men as brothers at all times. As one treats men, so should he treat all animals. They are also our brothers.

Judaism

God has made all men brothers and they should live together as brothers at all times.

Mohammedanism

All mankind is one family, one people. All men are brothers and should live as such.

Shinto

Heaven is the father and earth the mother of all men. Therefore, all men are brothers and should dwell together as such. By so living the country will be free from hate and sorrow.

Sikhism

Get together, my brethren, and remove all misunderstandings through regard for each other.

Taoism

The spirit of brotherhood, kindness, is necessary if one would win friends.

Zoroastrianism

One's friends should be holy people. A holy man will radiate holiness to all his friends.

Courage

Who possess zeal alone have indeed everything
Who possess all but zeal have nothing.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 591)

Buddhism

The wise man is not afraid. He knows his strength and does not fear. Likewise, he knows his weakness and does not attempt the impossible.

Christianity

We should not fear, but face life with courage and confidence. God watches over even the weakest of men.

Confucianism

The man of principle is courageous. He knows the right and will fight for it at all costs. God is on his side.

Hinduism

To realize that God is all and all is God gives man courage.

Jainism

A man may conquer thousands and thousands of invincible foes but that is of no real consequence; his greatest victory is when he conquers only his own self through indomitable courage.

Judaism

Be courageous, for God will not fail you. The Lord is on the side of the righteous man. He will give you the strength you need.

Mohammedanism

God will guide the good. Therefore they shall have no fear. He will lead them through all the rough spots of life.

Sikhism

He is brave, who fights for the down-trodden.

Deeds

Waver not on acts resolved but act firmly
Fearlessly and wakefully.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 668)

Buddhism

Deeds determine one's place in society. One becomes an outcast or a highly placed person by his deeds. Evil deeds are easy to do; good deeds are difficult; but the good deeds pay the highest rewards.

Christianity

Man is known by his deeds, and is judged even so by God. God will reward good deeds and punish evil ones. To profess goodness is of no value, one must do good deeds or be condemned.

Confucianism

Reward will follow every good deed. Only by doing good deeds can a man know the true joy of living.

Hinduism

The doer of good deeds will become good and the doer of evil deeds will become evil.

Jainism

Each day passes never to return. Therefore, do good at all times, for you can never call back a day to perform a good deed that was not done.

Judaism

Do good at all times, for man will be judged by his works.

Mohammedanism

On the day of Judgment, every soul shall be judged in accordance with his deeds. To do good drives out evil.

Sikhism

Man's deeds are recorded by the divine. He becomes good in the eyes of the divine by doing good deeds.

Zoroastrianism

It is important that we keep ourselves physically fit to do good deeds at all times.

Duty

One who is generous feels very poor When unable to do any favour.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 219)

Buddhism

One should be faithful to his duty at all times regardless of the situation. Faithfulness to duty brings the greatest of rewards.

Christianity

One has a duty to God and duties towards one's fellows. One should take care to discharge one's duties.

Confucianism

Man's duty comes from Heaven. Therefore, he fails in his duty at his peril.

Hinduism

Never falter in doing your duty. God has decreed man's duty, and to fail is to disobey God.

Jainism

A wise man discovers his duty and does it at all costs. It is the duty of all to be impartial and to abstain from causing injury to all living things.

Judaism

The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep his commandments.

Mohammedanism

All men who do their duty will receive a fitting reward from the Lord.

Sikhism

He alone is householder who disciplines his sense of desire.

Evil

Evil is feared more than fire
As evil begets evil ever.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 202)

Buddhism

Evil actions will be punished and good action rewarded with happiness.

Christianity

The Christian will hate evil and will keep himself free even from the appearance of evil.

Confucianism

The rewards of goodness are inevitable, just as are the punishments of evil.

Hinduism

He who is involved in evil cannot hope to attain eternal happiness. Heaven punishes the evil. All pain and suffering comes from evil-doing.

Jainism

Avoid all evil. One may commit evil by doing something wrong or by approving another's evil act. Do not cause others to sin.

Judaism

Evil is the cause of suffering. God will reward those who flee from evil and seek the good.

Taoism

Those who do evil in the open light of day - men will punish them. Those who do evil secretly - God will punish them.

Sikhism

When the clothes are soiled and rendered impure, they are cleansed with soap. When the mind is defiled by sin, it is rendered pure by the love of his name.

Faith

Vast sea of births can be crossed
By those who clasp God's feet.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 10)

Buddhism

Faith is necessary for virtuous life. Prosperity follows upon faith.

Christianity

One who is faithful even to death will receive a crown of life. Faith is basic to full understanding.

Confucianism

He who lacks faith will not succeed. One must hold to faith at all times.

Hinduism

Faith is the pathway to wisdom. The most prized of God is the man of faith.

Jainism

The man of faith has chosen the right pathway.

Judaism

God is faithful and will preserve the faithful. The man of faith can expect great rewards from God.

Shinto

Faith is fundamental to human beings.

Taoism

To have less than enough faith is to have no faith at all. The divine will repay faith with faith and faithlessness with faithlessness.

Sikhism

Good life and immortality are the rewards of the faithful.

Family

If domestic life has love and virtue
There will be grace and gain true.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 45)

Buddhism

The aged should be respected and revered. He who does this will receive great rewards and will prosper.

Christianity

Children must respect and obey their parents, but the parents must also respect their children.

Confucianism

The virtuous man will never neglect his parents. Love and respect for relations and elders is the beginning of love and respect for all members of the state.

Hinduism

Love and respect must reign in the home. Faithfulness must mark the relationship of husband and wife.

Jainism

The child should support his parents when he is able to do so.

Judaism

The child must honour and respect his parents and obey them at all times. The parents must teach the child and rear him in the ways of the Lord.

Mohammedanism

A child should be grateful both to God and to his parents. The family is a unit, and should seek God as one.

Sikhism

Son, why do you quarrel with your father. It is a sin to argue with him. Always look up to the Highest, living among your kith and kin, like the lotus that stands above its roots which are in mud.

Zoroastrianism

Obedience, peace, charity, humility, truth, and righteousness should prevail in every home and the children should respect the parents at all times.

Forgiveness

Even in jest, words of contempt hurt
Even to foes, the kind are polite.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 995)

Buddhism

Whatsoever may be the cause of your suffering, you should not wound another, but forgive him.

Christianity

Man should be forgiving. As he forgives his fellow beings so God will forgive him.

Hinduism

God will forgive the sinner, if he earnestly casts away his sins. Human forgiveness is the way to bliss among men. A wise man will always be ready to forgive.

Jainism

I forgive all the living beings. All living beings may forgive me. I cherish friendly feelings towards all. I do not hold any ill will towards man, beast or plant.

Judaism

The Lord forgives all sins. He is forgiving at all times, if the wicked one will forsake their ways.

Mohammedanism

God loves those who forgive their fellow beings.

Shinto

Forgive others but yourself never.

Sikhism

Countless people have perished without the spirit of forgiveness. Remove malice from your own heart, and behold! The whole world is your friend.

Friends

Friendship hastens to save friends in distress
Like hands quickly restoring slipping dress.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 788)

Buddhism

One should pick one's associates from among the wise and the good. Evil associates will corrupt a man.

Christianity

"Evil companions corrupt good morals." Shun those who are not good. The wise man will seek out those who will help him to become better and attain greater sanctity. Shun the idle and the unproductive and seek out the industrious and the creative.

Confucianism

Seek out the company of those who can give good advice and whose example is good. Good associates will do you good, therefore cling to the best.

Hinduism

Look upon all the living beings as your bosom friends, for in all of them there resides one soul.

Jainism

Do not allow yourself to be deluded by evil associates. Make friends with those who are considerate both towards other people and towards all life systems.

Judaism

Do not follow the path of the wicked, or associate with those who are evil. Good friends are best.

Mohammedanism

Avoid those who do wrong. To associate with the wicked is to cast suspicion upon oneself. Therefore, avoid such suspicion by seeking out only the good men as associates.

Sikhism

Friend, if you posses some good, let us be friends; Let us be partners for doing good, and let us ignore each other's flaws.

Zoroastrianism

The good should associate with those whom they can help. A virtuous man will radiate his virtue far and wide. One is fortunate to be the associate of such a good man.

Giving

Giving to the poor alone is real charity
All else aim at recompense only.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 221)

Confucianism

Benevolence is a characteristic of the wise. The superior man gives generously to the needy. He knows that this is the chief element in humanity.

Hinduism

Giving with cheerfulness is the way to security and happiness. Giving is superior to receiving since the giver acquires a friend and protects himself from enemies. The wise man will always share with others.

Jainism

Charity without fellow-feelings is like sowing in a fallow land.

Judaism

Those who have, should give to those who have not. The poor should always be helped. One who gives to the poor, gives to the Lord. If one does not give when the poor seek, one will not be aided when one is in need.

Mohammedanism

The pious man will give alms. His gifts will return to him. God loves the giver. As god has been generous to man, so should he be generous to his fellow beings.

Shinto

Be generous to all creatures, both human and animal. Long life is the reward for generous giving.

Sikhism

Only what one gives to others will be preserved for him in the future world. The generous will find contentment.

Taoism

One should help all those who are in need, and should not expect of his reward.

Golden Rule

As the whole world looks to the sky for rainfall All subjects look to the king for just rule.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 542)

Buddhism

Remember that you are like others. As you fear and suffer, so do they. Therefore, do not do those things which will cause them trouble. As you would not harm yourself, do not harm others.

Christianity

Whatever you would want men to do to you, do even so unto them. One should love his neighbour as himself.

Confucianism

What one does not like to be done to himself, he should not do to others. The rule of philanthropy is to draw from one's self a parallel for the treatment of others.

Hinduism

Behave with others as you would like with yourself.

Mohammedanism

Anas told that when God's messenger said: "Help your brother whether he is acting wrongfully or is wronged." A man asked, "Messenger of God, I help him when he is wronged, but how can I help him when he is acting wrongfully?". He replied" "You can prevent him from acting wrongfully. That is your help to him"

Jainism

One should treat all beings as he himself would like to be treated. Since all beings hate pain, he should kill or pain nothing.

Judaism

What you hate, do to no man. One should love his neighbour as himself.

Sikhism

As you sow, so shall you reap; This body is the result of your actions.

Zoroastrianism

Do not do unto others all that which is not well for yourself.

Guidance

Value merit of men with morals and sagacity
And secure their amity.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 441)

Buddhism

Trust in the Lord and he will guide you alright. One who has this trust need fear nothing. He can be at perfect peace and happiness, for he will be guided alright.

Christianity

If we trust in God, he will carry us through all hardships and troubles. One should have complete confidence in God. Even under persecution we should not falter, for God will guide us to our reward.

Confucianism

God is with the good man. Therefore, he should never fear. God will guide the good aright. Follow the will of God without questioning, for it is true and the end will be success.

Hinduism

No enemies can overcome the believer. He has trust in God, knowing that God will guide him through all troubles.

Jainism

From the roots grow up the trunk of a tree; from the trunk shoot up the branches; out of them grow the twigs and the leaves; and then there are flowers, fragrance, fruits and juice. Similarly, obedience to the guidance of Jina is the root of the tree of religion and liberation

is the highest resultant (juice). It is through this guidance that one achieves immortal renown and abiding peace.

Judaism

Trust in God at all times. He will lead you even through the shadows of death and will protect you in the presence of your enemies.

Mohammedanism

The Lord has created and will guide man through life. Those who trust his guidance at all times will find that the Lord will not fail them.

Zoroastrianism

God is our protector and guide. In him must we trust and never waver. He is all-powerful and will never fail those who yield to his guiding.

Happiness

Joy on earth and bliss in heaven above
Are the fruits of domestic life of love.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 75)

Buddhism

The wise and good man will be happy in this world and in the next. He has the secret of perfect contentment and joy. One should not seek after happiness, but should find it as a natural result of good deeds.

Christianity

The Christian life is a happy one. Despite persecution and tribulations, the Christian is happy because he has the right on his side and his reward will be great in heaven.

Confucianism

Even in the most meager of circumstances, the man who lives rightly will be happy. Ill-gotten gains will never bring happiness. Heaven grants bliss to the good.

Hinduism

True happiness comes not from external things, but through attachment to things spiritual. It is an inner joy which nothing outside can destroy. It comes from God and is a reward for goodness. Only the wise have real happiness.

Jainism

Happiness comes through self-control. The man who is able to subdue himself will find happiness in this and in the next world.

Judaism

Happiness results from good works. If people keep the law, they shall be happy.

Mohammedanism

Happiness will come when one turns to God and seeks union with Him. The good will be rewarded greatly for their works and will be happy.

Shinto

Virtue goes hand in hand with happiness.

Sikhism

We shall find happiness in the worship of the Lord. He made everything and is the source of all true happiness.

Taoism

Human happiness comes from perfect harmony with one's fellow beings. The source of divine happiness is complete accord with God. The good shall be truly happy.

Zoroastrianism

Holiness is the source of the truest happiness. Only those who live justly shall know happiness.

Hate

Love and high-born dignity
Are two ways of courtesy.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 992)

Buddhism

Hatred is damaging to mankind. One who gives way to hatred is no longer a master of himself.

Christianity

Love and not hatred should rule. If one has any hatred in his mind, he should cast it out before turning to his religious observances. To hate is to be a murderer.

Confucianism

Those who speak harshly will stir up hatred. One should demand much of himself and little of others. By so doing one will avoid hatred.

Hinduism

Hatred breeds confusion. Clear thinking and careful action can come only when the heart is free from hatred.

Jainism

Hatred will drag down the soul and defile it. To attain purity of soul, one should avoid hatred at all costs.

Judaism

It is wrong to hate a brother. Hatred begets strife, and strife destroys people. Only the fool will give room to hatred.

Taoism

Return goodness for hatred. The wise man hates not, but seeks always to do good. He will not enter a dispute and thus can have no one disputing and hating him.

Sikhism

He, whose mind is imbued with the One alone, feels not jealous of another.

Home

Who leads an ideal life on this earth
Is a man of divine worth.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 50)

Buddhism

The home should be a place of mutual understanding and love, of chastity and faithfulness, of reverence for the aged and respect for the young.

Christianity

In the home the child should honour his father and mother and the parents should respect the children.

Hinduism

The highest law of the home is love among its members. The wife should be loving, the children obedient, and the father understanding and industrious. Thus will develop the perfect home.

Jainism

The child should support his father and mother when he is able to do so and they are in need. But, in religious matters, the man must stand alone.

Mohammedanism

Prayer should dominate the home. In it, the parents and children should serve the Lord at all times. Kindness

to parents should dominate the children and the parents should see to it that the children are nurtured rightly in all religious matters.

Zoroastrianism

The home should be a place where obedience, peace, love, generosity, humility, truth, and righteousness reign. Here children should respect their parents. To such a home will come contentment, knowledge, prosperity and glory.

Immortality

Twin deeds of dark illusion, good and bad
Won't be theirs who glorify God.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 5)

Buddhism

The good and the wise will find happiness in the life to come. The evil and the thoughtless will die eternally. Heaven is a place of bliss for the good.

Christianity

God has prepared a home after death for the good. All here on earth changes and pass away, but he who obeys the will of God lives forever.

Heaven is a place of rewards and hell a place of punishment. Each man shall receive justice after death.

Hinduism

The soul destroys the earthly body in order to make for itself a new and more beautiful one. The wise man will become immortal. The good and the just shall live forever.

Jainism

There will be a life hereafter. The evil shall go to hell and the good to heaven. In heaven the soul develops to perfection.

Judaism

The dust will return to dust, and the spirit of man will go to its everlasting home. The Lord will reward the good with eternal life and the spirit of man will dwell forever with God who made it.

Mohammedanism

The good and those who have died in the service of the Lord shall be rewarded with eternal life.

Sikhism

The good man dies only to go home. He does not die, but lives forever. Heaven is the company of the saints.

Taoism

Death is a going home. The good and wise shall suffer no harm even though the body dies.

Zoroastrianism

The righteous shall live happily in the future life while the evil shall suffer worst torments.

Justice

People regard the king as God
For just rule and guard.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 388)

Buddhism

The wise man will weigh matters carefully so that he may judge justly. Hasty judgment shows a man to be a fool.

Christianity

All judgments should be made justly. Beware lest you fall into evil

judgments. God is just and will judge all men justly, according to their deeds.

Confucianism

The man of honour desires justice and will seek after it in all his actions. Only the fool is unjust.

Hinduism

The one who hurts pious men falls victim to his own designs. This is divine justice.

Jainism

God, let me not stray away from the path of justice. I may remain ever

steadfast against denunciation by others; I should keep my equanimity in poverty and plenty.

Judaism

The Lord loves justice and has erected his throne upon it. The man who deals justly with his fellow beings at all times, shall truly live.

Mohammedanism

Live a just and honest life. God does not do injustice, and he expects his followers to be just. Act justly at all times and under all conditions.

Shinto

Injustice shall be overcome by justice. If one has made a promise, he must fulfil it justly even though it be made by the unrighteous. Man should think and act justly at all times.

Zoroastrianism

To see justice and fail to do it, is an act of cowardice.

Love

Is there any bolt to shut the doors of love?
Tears of the loved ones reveal the love.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 71)

Buddhism

One act of pure love in saving life is greater than spending the whole of one's time in religious offerings to the gods, sacrificing elephants and horses.

Christianity

Love is supreme in Christianity. It is the heart of religion. God's love for man and man's love for god, the love of man for man, and the love of the Christian for all others are central themes of Christian teaching.

Hinduism

The Lord is the lover of all beings, but he especially loves those who keep his laws and are devoted to him. One can best worship the Lord through love.

Jainism

One should show compassion to all creatures, and obey the Law at all times.

Judaism

One should love God with all of one's heart. And one should love his neighbour. The stranger has a claim on one's love. God loves the good man, the righteous.

Shinto

The Lord will visit the home where love reigns. Love is the representative of the Lord.

Sikhism

One who loves God truly will be cleansed of all his impurities. We obtain salvation by loving our fellow beings and God.

Zoroastrianism

Everyone should love virtue. Man is the beloved of the Lord and should love him in return.

Man

The loveless grab all for themselves
The loving give even their bones.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 72)

Buddhism

Man is the product of his thinking.

Christianity

Man is a little lower than the angels. He is the measure of all values. Man is god's workman on earth.

Hinduism

Man is the highest of animals. He is an animal with an immortal soul which cannot be hurt by the world. There is nothing nobler than humanity.

Judaism

Most people are enamoured of pleasures and do not reach the moral heights possible for man.

Jainism

Man is a creation of God, made in the likeness of God. He has been made a little less than the divine.

Mohammedanism

God created man to sit on his throne on earth. Man is God's viceroy on earth.

Sikhism

Man's body is the dwelling place of God. God is the soul of man, his eternal nature.

Taoism

Man is both human and divine. The divine in him is eternal and of infinite worth. The human may pass away, but the divine is everlasting. His goodness comes from God.

Zoroastrianism

The wise One created man to be like him. The mind of man enclosed in a body comes from the divine. Thus, man should serve only the good and flee from all that is wicked.

Obedience

Self-control will place one among gods
Lack of it sinks one into a life of evils.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 121)

Buddhism

Those who obey the law and follow studiously, the commandments shall have serenity of mind, joy, and prosperity.

Christianity

The true Christian is known by the fact that he obeys the commandments of God. If one desires true life here and hereafter, he should obey the commandments.

Hinduism

The laws of God are eternal, lofty, and deep. The man who is obedient to them will be happy and, after death, will experience joy unsurpassable.

Jainism

The fool refuses to obey the Law and is sorry when he reaches the hour of death. Man is created to fulfil the law of God. The wise and pious are always obedient to the law of God.

Judaism

The commandments of the Lore are just and should be obeyed. To disobey God will result in punishment; to obey will result in happiness and blessedness. God will show no mercy to those people or nations who refuse to obey.

Sikhism

Man is to God what a servant is to his master. Thus, he should obey at all times. If he obeys, he will have honour and happiness and will eventually meet his master.

Taoism

The complete and perfect man is the one who obeys the will of the Lord at all times.

Zoroastrianism

The Lord is epitome of wisdom. Thus, what he orders is good for his followers and his commandments should be obeyed. Immortality is the reward he offers to the obedient.

Peace

Men of graceful heart would seldom pass Into the world of darkness and distress.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 243)

Buddhism

True happiness comes to those who live at peace with their fellow beings. The aim of all should be to learn peace and live peacefully with all men.

Christianity

Jesus is the Prince of peace. He came to this earth to bring peace to all men and women.

Hinduism

If one would find happiness and security, one must seek for peace. The peaceful mind will become established in wisdom. God is a guard of peace and desires peace for all people.

Jainism

The enlightened will make peace as the foundation of their lives. All men should live in peace with their fellow beings. This is the Lord's desire.

Judaism

Judaism looks forward to an ideal time when peace shall reign throughout the world. God commends peace and urges

all his followers to work for peace. Peaceful life offers the greatest opportunity for happiness and prosperity.

Mohammedanism

God will guide men to peace. If they will heed him, he will lead them from the darkness of war to the light of peace.

Shinto

The earth shall be free from trouble and men shall live at peace under the protection of the divine.

Sikhism

Thy true name is my support; It is my food and drink.

Taoism

The wise esteem peace and quiet above all else. The good ruler seeks peace and not war, and he rules by persuasion rather than by force.

Zoroastrianism

All men and women should mutually love one another and live in peace as brothers and sisters, bound by the indestructible hand of humanity.

Repentance

The discourteous tho' sharp as files
Are similar to the trees.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 997)

Buddhism

Whatever fault one may have, one should confess them and seek forgiveness. Confession is a necessary part of repentance.

Christianity

All men are sinners. Therefore they should repent, confess their sins, and seek forgiveness of God who is ready always to forgive those who are truly repentant.

Confucianism

Whenever a person is in the wrong, he should hasten to confess his error and make amends.

Hinduism

To the extent that one has sinned, one should confess and earnestly beg God's forgiveness and mercy. God will hasten to forgive and wipe away one's sins.

Jainism

Repent pleasures and instruct others to do so. If one lives only for the present, and does not prepare for the future, one will repent later on.

Judaism

If one hides his sin and does not confess it, he shall not prosper. God is willing and anxious to forgive the man who confesses his guilt and truly repents.

Mohammedanism

The Lord is quick to forgive those who confess their sins and turn to him for forgiveness. One who has sinned should seek the Lord with a repentant heart. He will surely find mercy.

Sikhism

Relinquish your sins and have recourse to good actions. Repent if you have committed any sin.

Zoroastrianism

If one has made a confession of his sins and does earnestly resolve never to sin again, he shall be forgiven. The religion of the wise one takes away the sins of those who confess.

Sincerity

Love, modesty, charity, mercy and truthfulness
Are five supporting pillars of perfectness.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 983)

Buddhism

Be not slothful or flippant, but be earnest at all times. Goodness comes from earnestness. God loves the earnest, sincere man.

Christianity

One's religious actions should not be for showing but should be done in earnestness. At all times the true Christian is sincere and earnest.

Confucianism

Whatever you do, you should do with all your heart. Heaven will help the man who is sincere, and one's fellowmen will trust him if he is sincere and earnest.

Hinduism

The Lord does not favour those who are not sincere and honest.

Jainism

Clear thinking comes through sincere and earnest effort. One can be proficient in religious practices only to the degree that one is earnest and sincere. Through sincere action one becomes pure.

Judaism

The Lord will help those who are earnest. He is near to the sincere and knows man's inner being. He is not fooled by outward appearances.

Mohammedanism

God is not to be fooled. He knows whether or not a man is earnest in his professions and will deal with all men according to this knowledge. One who repents in earnestness will be forgiven.

Shinto

Sincerity is the single virtue that binds divinity and man in one.

Sikhism

To pretend religion is of no avail. Earnestness is the only basis for true religious acts.

Taoism

The manner of heaven is earnestness. If one is sincere and earnest in one's acts, he will attain to the truest sainthood.

Zoroastrianism

As long as a man is earnest, his reward will be great.

Work

It is always easy to preach something
But hard to practise the same thing.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 664)

Buddhism

Works, and not birth, determine one's place in the world. At all times one should work diligently and with earnestness. Hard work is praised.

Christianity

God works, and so man should work. The Christian will be diligent in good works all the time, for a man is to be judged by his works.

Confucianism

Not ease, but work is the mark of a good man. The superior individual does not indulge in luxurious ease, but works constantly for the good.

Hinduism

One becomes what he does. The man who does good becomes good, and the man who does evil becomes evil. One should do good despite the results. No one who does good, will come to an evil end.

Jainism

A day once gone will never return. Therefore, one should be diligent each moment to do good. We reach the goal of good life by pious works.

Judaism

God will judge each man according to his works. All men shall be known by their works. Whatever one undertakes to do, one should do it with all his might. God commands men to work and promises that he will be with them in all good works.

Mohammedanism

Everyone should strive to excel in good works. Work constantly, God will observe your works and judge you according to whether they are good or evil.

Sikhism

God has determined from the beginning, the works man must do. No man can escape this determination. Men become saints or sinners by their works only, not by their professions. Good works bring men to a clearer knowledge of the divine.

Zoroastrianism

We come to the divine through our good works. Thus, at all times man should strive to work well so that he may gain recognition in the sight of the wise Lord.

Wealth

The wealth earned through means fair
Is a source of virtue and pleasure.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 754)

Buddhism

Wisdom and self-mastery are true wealth. Material possessions are not real wealth, for they can be taken away from a man. Real wealth is everlasting.

Christianity

Real treasures are heavenly, where nothing can destroy them. One's heart will be with one's treasures. Do not count the wealth of this world as valuable. The only true value lies in spiritual wealth.

Confucianism

Prosperity comes from heaven. Wealth gained by unrighteousness will not last. The only true wealth is that which comes through right acting.

Hinduism

One should work constantly and not seek after wealth. But, if one gains wealth, one should share it with those in need. Beware lest wealth shuts the door on the good life. Riches are but means to doing good and should not become the goal of life.

Jainism

Wealth is fleeting and will never completely satisfy anyone. To put faith in wealth is to be a fool, for it will cause pain both in this world and in the next.

Judaism

Trust not in wealth. It is fleeting and may be the cause of much evil and suffering. The poverty of a good man is more to be prized than the wealth of the evil man. If one has wealth, one should use it for good and not for evil.

Mohammedanism

Wealth should be employed at all times for the things of the Lord. He who wastes his wealth in evil actions is condemned. Wealth must not be allowed to turn one from service to God.

Sikhism

In prosperity many come and surround a man. When fortune frowns at him, all abandon him and nobody comes near.

Zoroastrianism

Prosperity and wealth are the rewards of right living and come from the wise lord. Thus, wealth must be employed in the service of Lord.

War

Even a huge and sharp-tusked elephant fears When a tiger with zeal charges.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 599)

Buddhism

Even intention to kill any living being is condemned. Peace, and not war, is the ideal and should be sought by all who are truly religious.

Christianity

The peace-makers and not war-makers, are blessed. Those who take the sword shall perish by the sword. War is the road to destruction, while peace is the road to happiness and prosperity.

Confucianism

God desires peace, not war. Everyone should strive to dwell in peace with his fellows. The man subdued by force is in his heart still rebellious, but one who is won by love will be loyal forever.

Hinduism

Causing injury to any creature is wrong. The wise man will seek always to avoid strife and will dwell in peace. The ideal for life here on earth is peace, not war. No one should seek to extend his power through war.

Judaism

Only fools give way to war. The wise seek peace. The peace-loving,

the weak, shall inherit the earth. The Lord will judge between nations, and wars are of no avail.

Taoism

War is always followed by disastrous years. He who truly serves as a ruler of men will not lead his nation into war. Arms are unblessed and are full of sorrow.

Zoroastrianism

War is the gravest crime man perpetrates against man.

Wrath

The ire-fed are like the lifeless
The ire-free equal the ascetics.

- Thiruvalluvar
(Kural 310)

Buddhism

A true disciple is free from all passion, including wrath. To give way to wrath is to bind oneself to a master who will destroy. Happiness lies in freedom from wrath.

Christianity

Everyone should beware of wrath. Do not become angry without cause. Love

and not anger, is the mark of a true Christian. Put away all wrath and malice and seek to dwell in friendliness with all men.

Confucianism

Do not deal with your fellow beings as though you were superior to them. Those who do will find themselves hated. To avoid the wrath of others, demand little of them and much of yourself.

Hinduism

Wrath breeds confusion. The ideal is to live from hate and anger.

Jainism

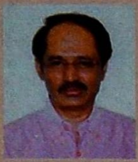
Wrath is a passion which defiles the soul. The wise man will avoid wrath lest he be caught in the toils of the passion as a fly is caught in glue.

Judaism

The wise man is slow to wrath. He gives soft answers and thereby turns away wrath on the part of others. Love should be the goal of all true believers, for wrath leads to strife.

Taoism

The wise man is free from wrath at all times.



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Dr. M. Rajaram is an exceptional IAS officer with a Doctorate Degree in Human Resource Development.

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He has brought the English translation of Thirukkural for which Dr.Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, has paid rich tributes.

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